

Bainbridge Island Rowing
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
05/26/21, 7:00 PM



Location: Video Conference

Board Members

Present: Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Jill Bamburg, Celia Clark, Julia Czesla, Grant Dull, Sue Entress, Brandon Fleet, John Foy, Kurt Frost, Rob Hershberg, Kris Kutchera, Tim Verharen, Faith Watson, Luke Watson, Beth Wheeler

Absent: Melanie Edenhalm, Anthony Oddo

Quorum: Yes (15/17)

Others Present: Bruce Beall

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM PST by President, Kris Kutchera

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda

- **MOTION** by Brandon Fleet to approve May 26, 2021 Agenda. Seconded by Faith Watson, all approved.

Minutes

- **MOTION** by Jill Bamburg to approve the April 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Rob Hershberg, all approved.

Location for June 23 Board Meeting

- It was agreed that the Board will meet in person at the boathouse for the June 23, 2021 meeting.
- Related, Grant Dull announced the donation from BPA to BIR of 100 wooden folding chairs for use as an immediate seating solution.

Month in Review

- Kris Kutchera recapped highlights from the month:
 - a. Wrapped up Spring Season for Juniors with 4 scrimmages and 3 boats going to Nationals!
 - b. Ahead of budget due to better-than-expected participation in programs and PPP 2.0.
 - c. Our adult numbers have bounced back to pre-COVID levels and there's a huge interest in this summer's LTR program.
 - d. Junior numbers are ahead of this year's COVID-era plan, but 33 less than next year's plan. Recruitment and retention for summer and fall programs are crucial for building up our Junior program.
 - e. Most of the Masters are vaccinated and Juniors are beginning to be vaccinated. Everyone is excited about relaxing face mask requirements as we navigate through new COVID guidance.
 - f. Coach staffing for summer programs is in the works.
 - g. Planning has begun for Junior End-of-Season Picnic, 20th Anniversary Summer Celebration & Alumni Row, and Dream Big, all at the boathouse. We'll need quite a few volunteers to make these events a success.
 - h. A group of evening rowers is working on the design (and ultimately construction and funding) for upper-level exits/deck to increase indoor capacity from current 49 in preparation for Dream Big and other events.
 - i. Thank you, thank you to all of you, our coaches and volunteers, who are working tirelessly to make all of these things happen!

Youth Nationals

- Based on time trials of May 16 at Vancouver Lake, BIR has 8 Junior Rowers going to Nationals in Sarasota, FL. Bruce Beall is locating boats, reconfiguring and tracking down equipment, with one less week than is typically available, for transport on a Rose City Rowing trailer to FL. He noted the positive effect on the Junior squad as a whole when BIR has rowers competing at the national level. He has also secured airline reservations and Sue Entress has reserved a vacation rental house that can accommodate all rowers as they prep, race, and study for finals. Kurt Frost has set up a fund especially for offsetting Nationals costs. Rowers' travel expenses covered by families.
- Regionals took place Friday 5/21 - Saturday 5/22 at Vancouver Lake. Very successful outcomes for both boys and girls teams. Missed the food tent typically coordinated and staffed by parents, but not an option this year due to Covid guidelines.

Financials

- Kurt Frost has been in touch with private shell owners currently storing boats at BIR to renew agreements and verify access arrangements.
- Working to schedule a meeting with Member lenders to provide them with an update; request a six month extension on BIR's promissory notes.

- **MOTION** by Kurt to recommend \$10K of operational cash be set aside to provide for legal counsel to advise BIR on the best course of action with regards to a substantial bequest. Seconded by John Foy, all approved.

COVID Vaccination Policies

- John Foy led a discussion of vaccination policies. The Covid Safety Committee had formulated new guidelines around masking and vaccinated individuals based on revised CDC and Washington State guidance of May 13. These were sent to the Executive Committee, where minor modifications were made. These guidelines are now as follows:
 - a. Vaccinations will be encouraged but not be required at this time for participation in BIR programs.
 - i. Concerns were voiced about requiring vaccinations at this time, given only recent FDA approval for 12-15 year olds. Timing for completion of being fully-vaccinated, prior to start of summer season, is limited.
 - ii. General observation that a vaccination requirement at this time is perhaps ahead of community practices.
 - iii. Vaccination requirement will be revisited in June board meeting.
 - b. To facilitate easing of mask-wearing and social distancing practices for fully vaccinated individuals, unvaccinated individuals will be assigned to separate pods with continued mask and social distancing requirements.
 - c. Have people attest to current vaccination status via an iCrew form, with permission to share the information and agreement to show proof if requested.
 - d. Vaccination status will be visible on iCrew.
 - e. For groups of fully vaccinated adults (masters), masks and social distancing are not required. Unvaccinated adults will continue to wear masks and social distance at all times except when alone in a boat.
 - f. Juniors may remove masks when on the water during competitions or if everyone in the boat is fully vaccinated. Juniors will continue to wear masks and social distance at all other times.
 - i. Grant Dull noted that mask and vaccination policies should align with BHS athletic guidance. **ACTION:** Bruce will reach out to the BHS Athletic Director, with whom he stays in communication, specifically about these policies.
 - ii. Safety Committee will continue to monitor Washington State guidelines for high school sports.
 - iii. It was noted that masking is a relatively easy-to-enforce policy with Juniors; social distancing is much more challenging.
 - iv. Important to continue to prioritize safety over all other considerations. BIR's success at continuing the Junior program in a pandemic year confirms that continued focus.
- **MOTION** by John Foy to approve these policies. Seconded by Celia Clark. 14 votes in favor, 1 abstention.

- Next steps will be to collect attestations about vaccination status. Communicate to members through coaches. Should be prepared for clarifying mask policy for Masters in contrast to mask policy for Juniors.
- **ACTION:** Kris Kutchera, John Foy and Sue Entress will work out communicating attestations to membership.

MOTION by Jill Bamburg to Adjourn. Seconded by Brandon Fleet, all approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM PST.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Beth Wheeler

Bainbridge Island Rowing
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
05/10/21, 1:00 PM



Location: Video Conference

EC Attendees: Sue Entress, John Foy, Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Kris Kutchera, Beth Wheeler

Absent: Kurt Frost

Others present: Bruce Beall

Purpose: To outline vaccination requirements and budget for Youth Nationals. Determine whether BIR should accept free wooden folding chairs from BPA.

Discussion:

- Bruce Beall outlined the evolving selection criteria for Junior Nationals, taking place in FL this year, based on improving public health outlook. Race dates are June 10-13; travel window is potentially slated for June 7-14.
- It was determined that BIR would send up to 4 boats, and contribute \$4000 towards non-coaching costs to attend Junior Nationals. Remainder will need to be covered by parents and/or fundraising.
- Potential BIR attendees age 16 and up will need to be fully-vaccinated (2 weeks following last dose). One potential rower for a boys double is age 15, an age which has just been approved for use of Pfizer vaccine.
 - **ACTION:** Convey to parents that 15-year-old rower will need to receive his second dose by May 31 (one week before departure). He will mask and socially distance in public places and from teammates, and be housed separately in FL with a parent. The parents of the other rower in the double will need to consent to the boys practicing and competing in FL without masks. **Bruce**
 - **ACTION:** Confer with Washington State epidemiologist on overall Covid safety practices for rowers. **Bruce**
 - **ACTION:** Generate budget including coaching, entry fees and boat transport. **Bruce, Kurt**
- Final decisions on boat lineups will be made by coaches next week.

- Grant Dull recommended accepting a donation of 104 wooden folding chairs from BPA. John Foy noted these would fit into the existing storage room, on carts included in donation. Agreed that these would serve BIR temporarily; could be donated to another non-profit when BIR has purchased chairs best suited to the Rowing Center purposes.
 - **ACTION:** Grant will work with BPA to accept chairs.
- Progress continues by volunteer group organized by Marc Stewart to complete west and east exiting of Rowing Center.

Adjourn 1:50

Minutes submitted by Beth Wheeler, Secretary

Bainbridge Island Rowing
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
05/17/21, 7:00 PM



Location: Video Conference

EC Attendees: Sue Entress, John Foy, Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Kris Kutchera, Beth Wheeler

Absent: Kurt Frost

Others present: Bruce Beall

Purpose: Update on Juniors attendance at Nationals. Confirm mask policy as pertains to Junior rowers. Update policy on collecting vaccination status of all Masters rowers; update Masters mask policy.

Discussion:

- Three boats will be attending Junior Nationals this year: U17 Girls Double, U17 Boys Double, Boys (uncoxed) Quad. Total of 8 rowers.
- All attendees will be fully-vaccinated; 15 year old will have received his 2nd dose, plus one week, by departure date. This is in accordance with recommendations from Washington State Epidemiologist.
- Bruce Beall and Sue Entress will accompany rowers.
 - **ACTION:** Need to generate budget so fundraising needs can be determined.
Bruce, Kurt
- Junior rowers preparing for Nationals will continue to mask while rowing and at the boathouse. In competition, Junior rowers do not need to mask (per CDC and Washington State guidelines)
- In accordance with newest CDC guidelines and subsequent announcement from Governor Inslee on 5/13, it was established that fully-vaccinated Masters can remove masks while in the boat, if all rowers in the boat consent. Further, pod sizes can increase from current limit of 12.
- Masters will provide verbal attestation of being fully-vaccinated to coaches until a written attestation can be implemented.
- Rowers with medical exemptions from vaccinations will be required to row in a single.

Adjourn 7:40 pm

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Beth Wheeler